

“Christ is all.” Col.3:11.

Comprehending Greatness of the Person of Christ

It is the glory of our holy religion that all its Truths are immutable, being built in the indestructible Person of the God-man: Christ Jesus the Lord; as all the branches of Divine Truth emanate from him, who is the Truth, and are the Reflection of its Immutable Character and Sublime Glory. Infinite certainty reigns in all the vast designs of Grace, the glorification of God’s holy character; the ingathering of his people, and their perfection in Christ alone. What a pitiable representation of the Gospel is that which attaches anything to the creature in the reception and Salvation thereof; while the cloudless glories of the Trinity in unfrustrable acts of Grace and Salvation are concealed behind the curtain of human ability! Where is the Majesty and Divinity of the Gospel marching through the world under the Authority and Almighty Reign of God the Holy Ghost, gathering up the people under the line of election, and the special marks of Sovereign Redemption? Where are the honors of his essential Majesty and Covenant undertakings; his Almighty reign, official greatness and glorious presidency in Zion? Where are his infinite prerogatives, his eternal love, his deep interest, his fullness of anointing, his omniscient care, his all sufficiency of power to raise the dead, quicken the living, reveal the profound glories of Christ, nurture the children of God, {the children of the promise who are numbered for the seed,} bring up the people in faith, knowledge, assurance, &c.? To support them in trouble, to regulate their sorrows, to keep them in temptation, to make them conquerors, to empower them in spiritual acts of faith & love to live on Christ; and to indwell them in all the Majesty of rich Grace as the Inexhaustible Fountain of eternal life, the Earnest of eternal fruition and the pledge of their endless inheritance? Ye living witnesses in Jerusalem; is it not a solemn fact that the Majesty of the Holy Ghost is little known in Zion, and his immortal honors seldom broadcasted forth from our pulpits. O Lord the Holy Ghost arise, and shine forth those radiant beams of Christ’s essential glory, that under thy blissful rays our souls may live; be lively and go forth to meet our celestial Bridegroom. Without thy unction, teaching and reviving presence, we fade, droop and die; without thy illumination and revelation, we sink into formality; and without thy powerful soul renewing energies, we get cold and barren, and indifferent in the ways of the Kingdom. It is Zion’s infinite mercy that her Teacher is Divine, and her Salvation built in her Immortal Husband and already crowned Redeemer. All creature boasting is excluded, but boasting in the Lord is illimitable. Here the saints may glory fearless of excess, may strive with each other in extolling his name, and never end the song, while he is the comprehensive Subject thereof. There is an infinite variety in his glorious Character that will fill the thoughts of his redeemed forever. It was heaven’s grand design to glorify the Son of God; and the summit of the newborn souls desire is to aid in the uplifting of his matchless Person. In dependence on the alone spiritual Revealer of his saving Majesty, I have assumed to take up this sacred motto for our contemplation – “Christ is all.”

Christ was all in Jehovah’s everlasting decree and purpose. It was his gracious determination and eternal decree to exalt Christ. He everlastingly decreed to set forth his peerless sovereignty; and all gracious design of the Everlasting God revolved on the Person of his Christ as the Brightness of his glory, the Center of all communicable fullness, the

Medium of Divine communication, the Foundation of creation acts, the grand Reflector of eternal attributes, and the Developer of heavens harmonious wonder of redemption. The LORD delighted in him as the Alpha and Omega of all his proceedings; the eternally appointed Agent to effect the eternal designs of peerless Grace and reveal the glorious acts of Eternal fore-thought.

"Jehovah's great all, in counsel Divine,
When all his Grace, acts embodied doth shine;
The mirror through which Divine Majesty's seen,
And all Divine honors resplendently beam."

Christ was God's decreed basis, whereon all the supreme acts of his gracious will are founded. God went forth in the infinite resolves of his purpose in Christ to bless the myriads of his delight; all the purposes of his perpetual goodness in embracing the elect was in Christ; without him was not any imminent act of the Divine mind to bless eternally. Sovereignly loved in Him, eternally elected in Him, predestinated to the adoption of children by Him, fore-known in Him, blessed in Him, accepted in Him, justified in Him and glorified in Him. Christ was God's all, being dignified in Divine counsel, exalted in Divine thought, appointed Head and Mediator in Everlasting Settlements; in whom all the plans of eternity centered; all the everlasting councils were fixed, and all the great mysteries of Eternal Redemption were folded, and Jehovah's apprehended channel of conveying all the blessings of his grace to the objects of his everlasting love secured. He was exalted into preeminent greatness by Jehovah in Trinity, in all imminent Acts of Grace; relation is built in Him; personal election is pitched on us in Him; we were appointed heirs in Him and with Him; and we were loved as personally considered in Him. He was the comprehending Head in whom were embraced all the members. God's immutable thoughts settled upon us in Him, and all our bliss and blessedness was fortified in connection with Him, the all uniting Center of unity and circumference of Divine Grace & Everlasting Love. Christ was all in the Divine Decree as apprehended in his Eternal Suretyship, was all in the fore-knowledge of all Jehovah's unfoldings of Grace, the Mirror through which the Church was beheld, the comprehending fullness of all her provision, and the glorious Husband to whom the King's daughter was everlastingly espoused. Relation is built in Him, Redemption is accomplished in Him, Sanctification found in Him and Glorification secured in him. Christ is all in all! Not simply as possessing all Divine perfections, as being all wise, all-powerful, all just, all righteous, and all in every perfection of his Divine nature as originally inherent in himself; but in his complex character, as God the Word, the eternal Son of God.

Thus my faith beholds in this glorious character an Object of Jehovah's Infinite Delight, an Object great enough for all his Immeasurable Pleasure & Divine Purpose to revolve on, his affections to take up, and his delights to rest on forever. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ declared from heaven, "this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased;" "mine elect in whom my soul delighteth;" "I was daily his delight." What mortal thoughts can enter into the Father's complacency in his Divine Christ, his only Son, full of Grace & Truth, whom he hath appointed heir of all things; of whom it is said, "he is in the bosom of the Father." This is the glory he had with the Father before the world was. He was the great center of Divine attraction, "for thou lovest me before the foundation of the world." Jehovah rested in his love in the Person of Christ, through whom the vast love of the Deity ran upon the Church. Christ is the all attracting Object of the Father's delight, for he is the Son of his love; the only begotten, who is in the bosom of the Father, the image of the

invisible God, the brightness of his glory, whom the Father so loved as to make him Head of all principalities and powers, and so loved him that when his glory was concealed in our flesh, he commanded all the Angels to worship him. The infinite mind and heart of Jehovah set upon Christ. Truly it was in reference to this great anti-type of the temple that Jehovah declared mine eyes and my heart shall be there perpetually. "And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me; I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there forever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually." {I Kgs.9:3}

Christ was God's all to glorify the Godhead in the stupendous designs of Eternal Sovereignty. He was all in the great Covenant of Sovereign Grace, fitted in his matchless Person to enter into, and to undertake all the stipulations of that vast agreement. Jehovah's honor was everlastingly secured. He could rest with infinite repose on the God-man Contractor, with holy satiety in his all sufficient Person, was eternally satisfied with his word, could trust all the myriads of his elect, all the weight of his own character, all the eternal honor that was to issue from the wisdom mystery of Zion's Salvation, and the everlasting glorification of all the redeemed in ultimate bliss. Here was Divine dignity maintained, and Divine honors secured; one able to carry into effect all the Divine intentions of everlasting forethought, and to bring an immeasurable revenue of honor to Deity. This great theme of the Godhead lay wrapped in the infinite mind of the LORD, and Christ was the Great Daysman & Eternal Surety of all the countless host he represented. He was God's all in the Covenant of Grace, emphatically styled, "this Covenant;" also to undertake and accomplish all in Himself. God the Father could trust no other, the honor was too great, the undertaking too vast, the deed too mighty, and the consequences too infinite to rest short of an Infinite Person. Oh the immutable and immortal honors of our Divine Christ! No angel was thus honored and exalted; it was the exclusive glory of the Son of his love to stand in this nearness to God, who in his complex Person is the Ancient of Days, Jehovah's all in appointment, Jehovah's all in power and greatness, and Jehovah's all in his fullness of officiating glory! New York July 5, 1832. T.W. {Signs of the Times, Volume II}